

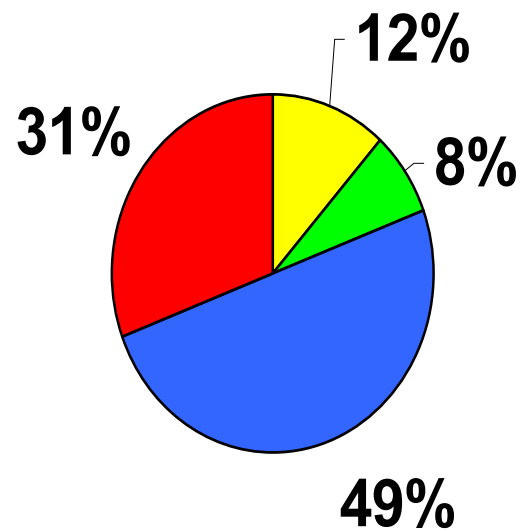
MDL Evaluation Branch Users Survey Results

June 2004

EB Users Survey Details

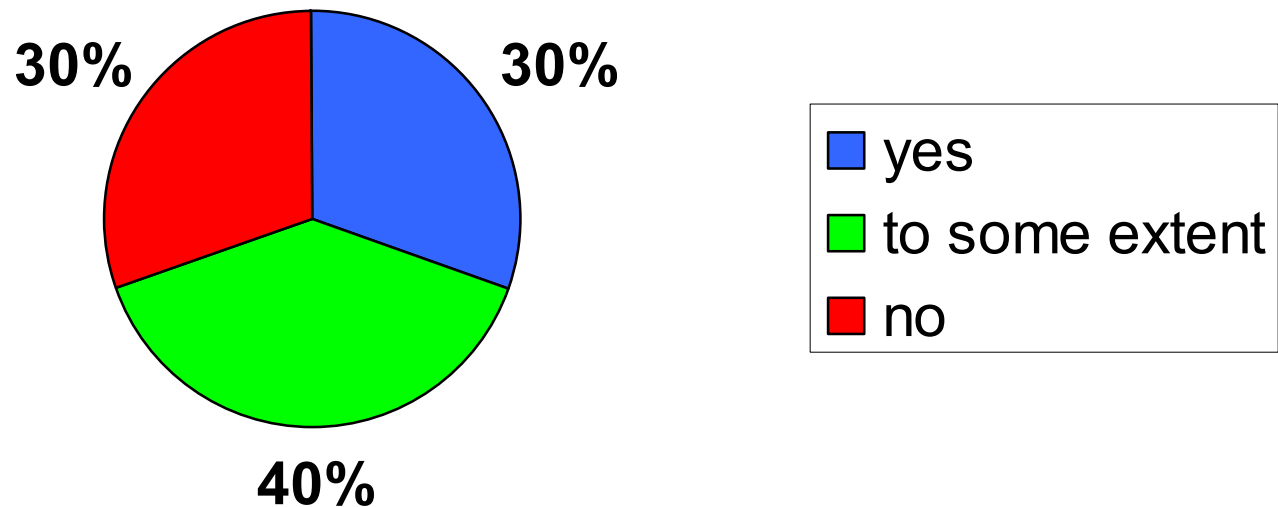
- 26 multiple choice questions and comment boxes
- Open from March 23 – April 30, 2004
- 26 responses from WFOs; (please note: some responses were lost due to database problems on March 19 – 22)

I have been using AVP for

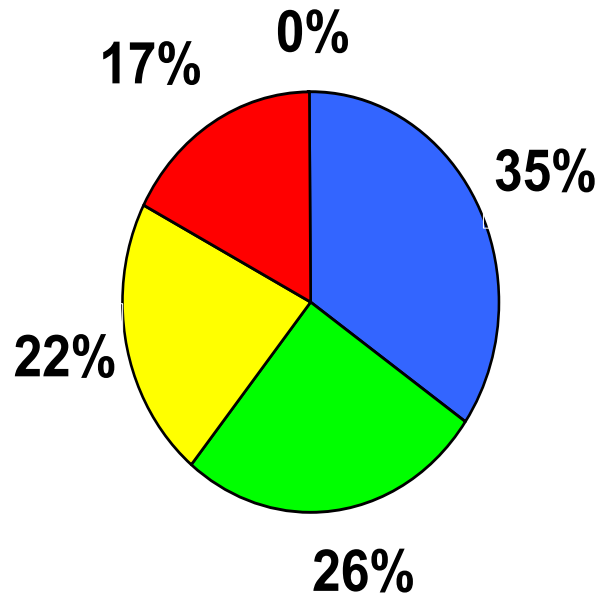


- less than a year
- 1 to 2 years
- longer than 2 years
- do not use

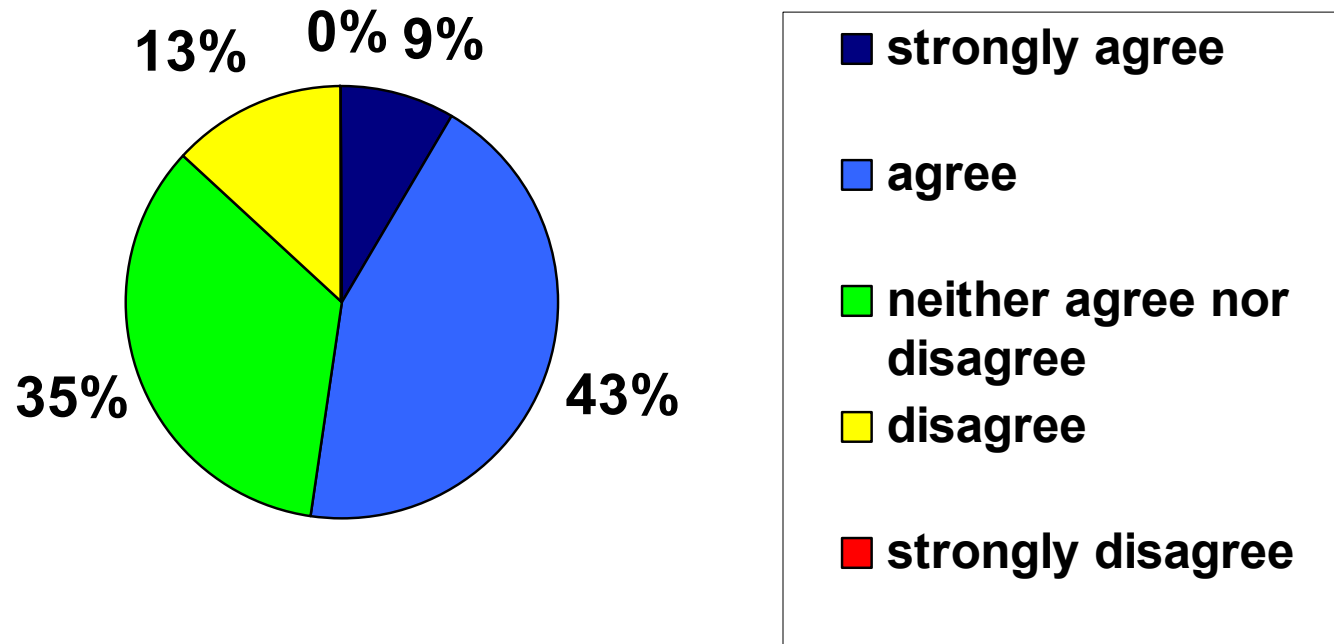
**I understand the relationship between AVP and
IFPS regarding population of the verification
database**



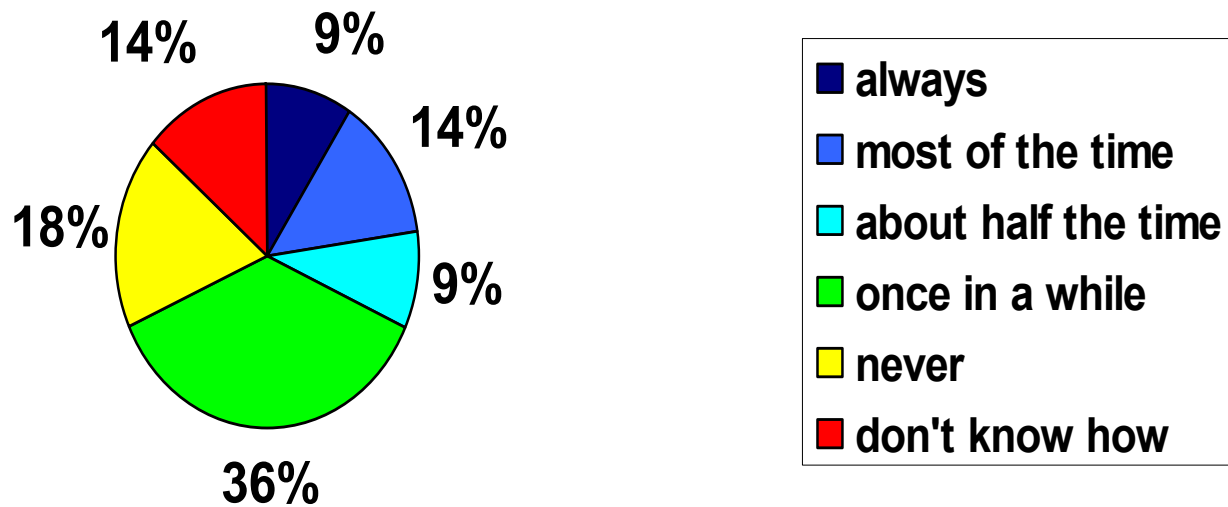
I received adequate training to operate AVP effectively



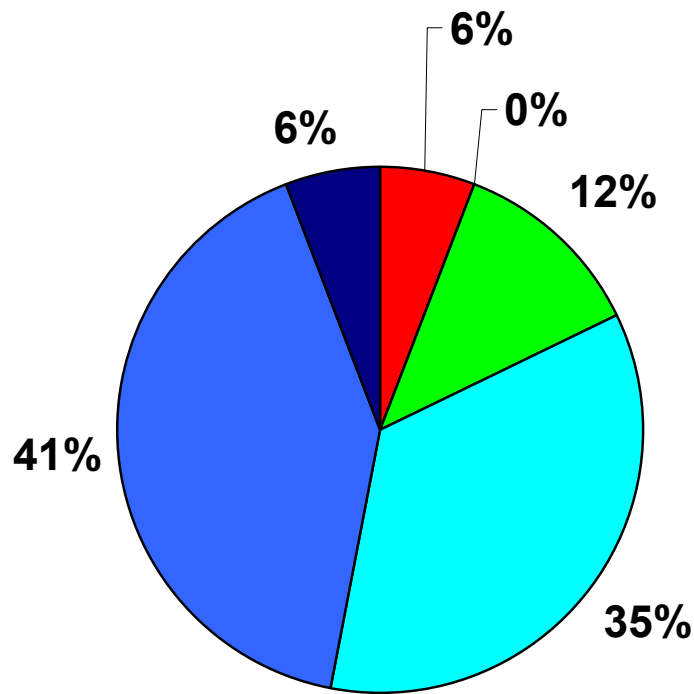
The AVP matrix editing GUI is easy to use



I check the forecasts and observations in the verification database prior to transmission

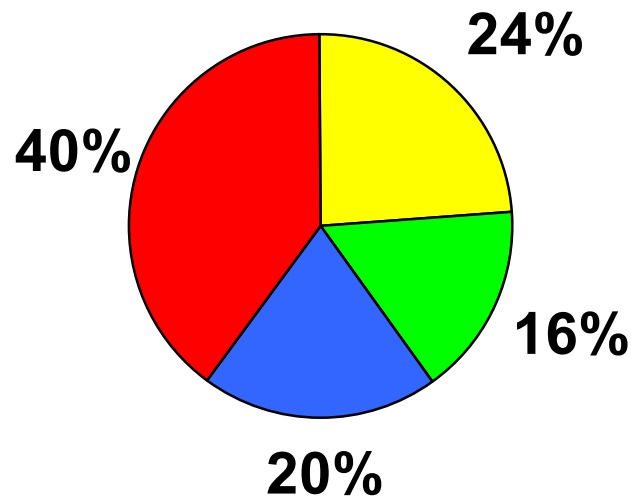


A forecast or observation in the verification database is incorrect



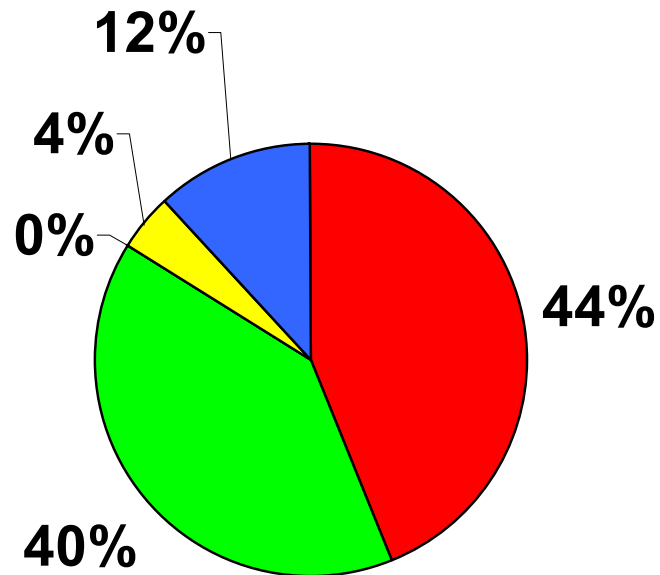
- frequently (80-100%)
- often (60-80%)
- about half the time (40-60%)
- once in a while (10-40%)
- not very often (1-10%)
- never

**I have been using MDL's AVP verification
website for**



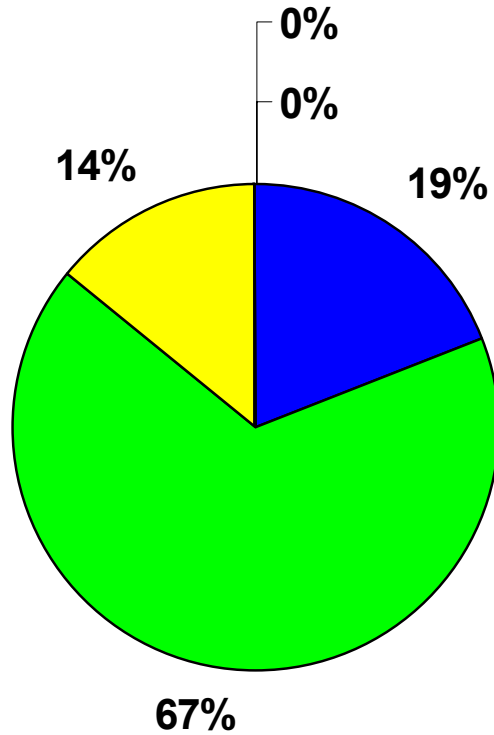
- less than a year
- longer than 1 year
- do not use
- did not know about this website

I learned of this website through



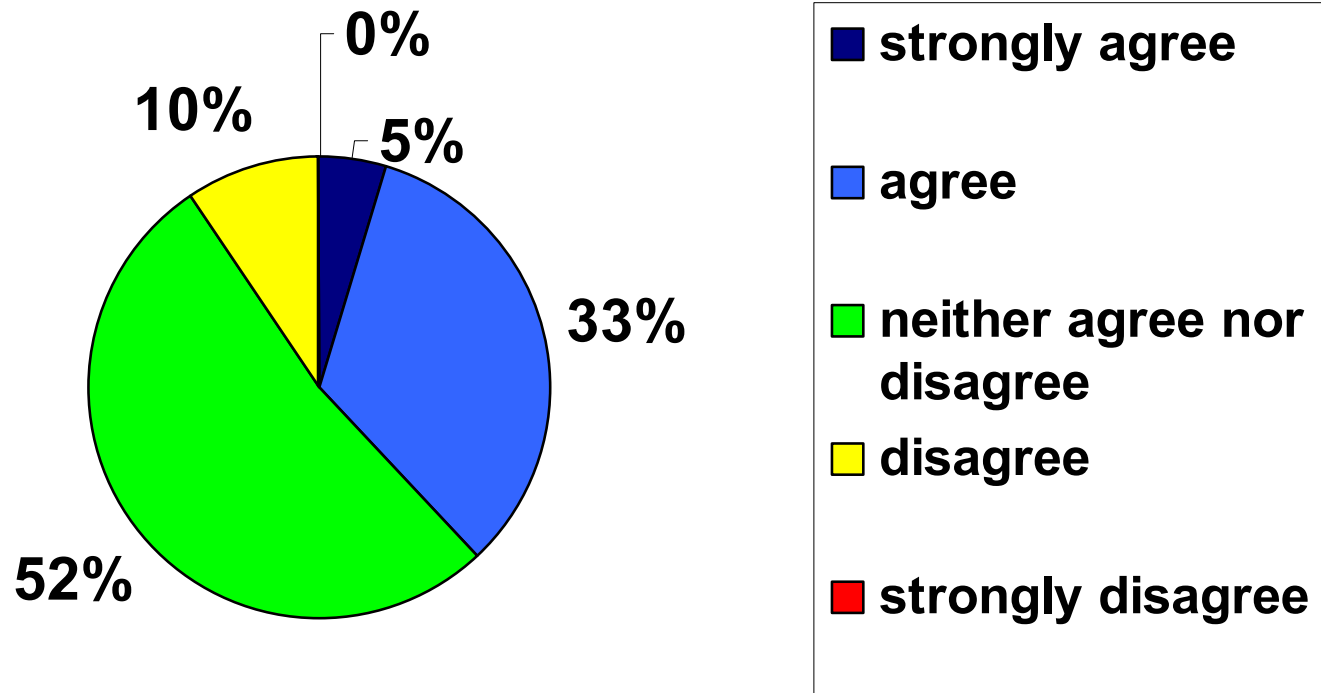
- this survey
- my regional headquarters
- an announcement from MDL
- word of mouth
- other

I find the charts and graphs useful

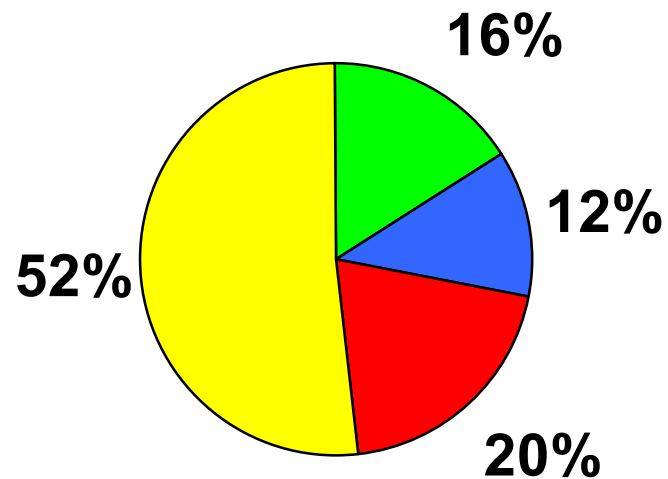


- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

I find the displays easy to understand

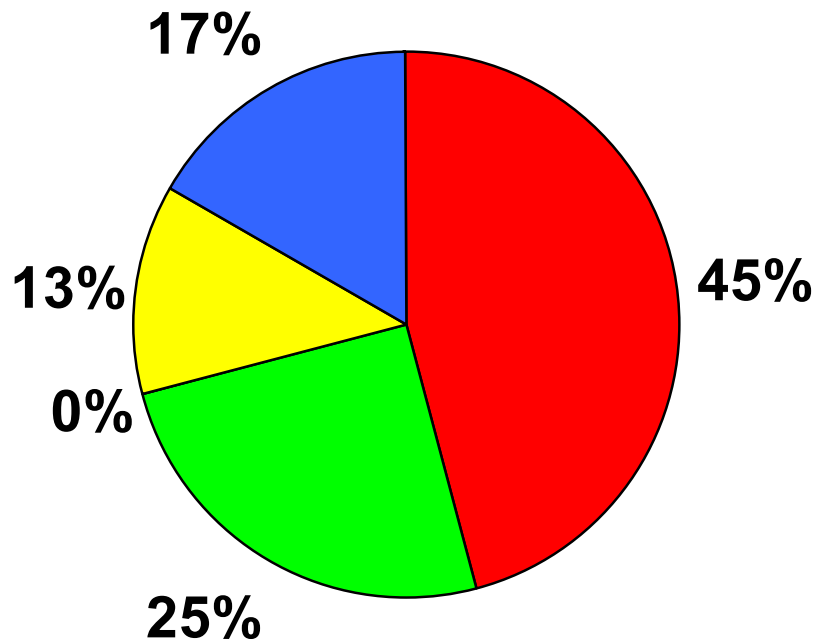


I have been using MDL's MOS verification website for



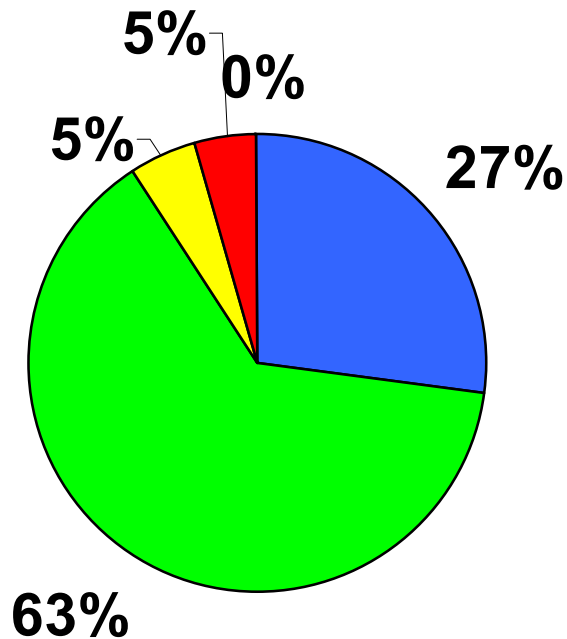
- **less than a year**
- **longer than 1 year**
- **do not use**
- **did not know about this website**

I first learned of this website through



- this survey
- my regional headquarters
- an announcement from MDL
- word of mouth
- other

I find the charts and graphs useful



strongly agree

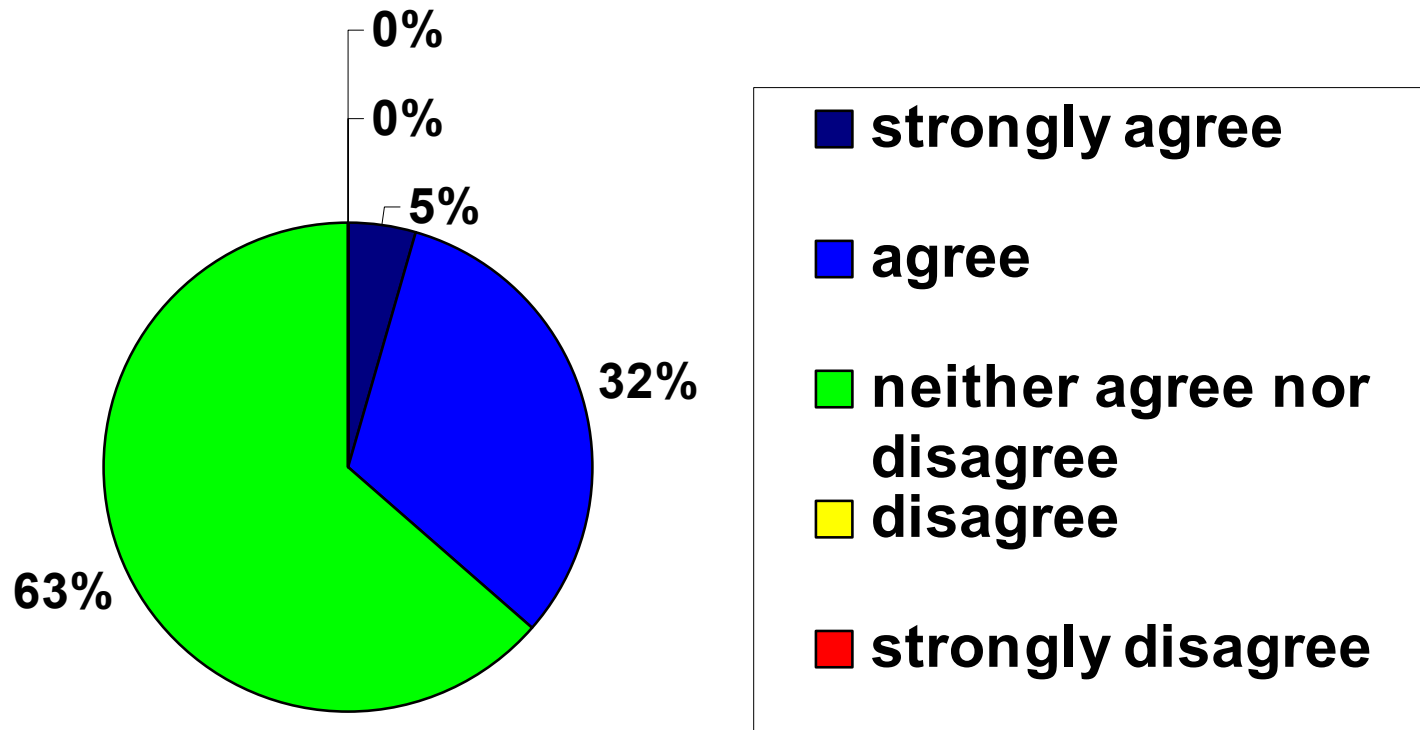
agree

neither agree nor disagree

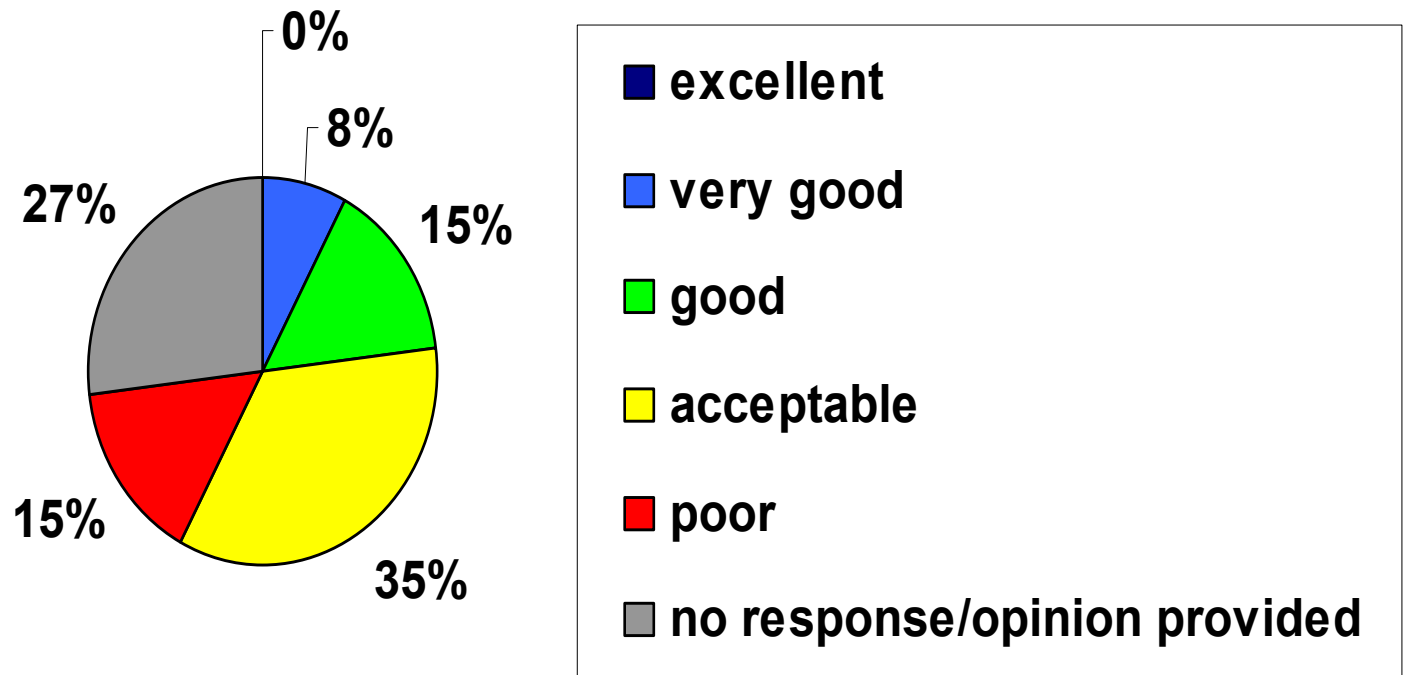
disagree

strongly disagree

I find the displays easy to understand



Overall level of satisfaction with the verification information provided by MDL's Evaluation Branch



Summary of comments about AVP

- Does not provide anything of value to the forecasters/simply a bean-counting exercise
- ASOS dew tips should be removed in AVP
- Difficult to keep up with so many changes, including verification
- WFO uses/prefers SOOVER
- Do not know about/use this application

AVP Comments (cont.)

- Seems to run well all by itself
- AVP data entry not apparent while 12Planet is running
- 2 data errors in 5 days (affects multiple forecast periods)
- Smoothing of forecasts causes AVP max/min values to be 1-2 degrees off

AVP Comments (cont.)

- Confusion regarding 42-h wind value
- No training/not enough training given
- Needs to be more user-friendly
- Great potential, but needs more graphical tools for real-time use at WFOs
- Public forecast data are not being entered automatically

AVP Comments (cont.)

- AVP values generated by CCF text formatter can differ from IFPS CCF formatter
- More emphasis needs to be placed on verification as a means to improve forecasts; the software needs to be enhanced and WFOs should use it more extensively

Comments About Verification Websites

- Websites are useless because data are too aggregated – need tools that provide information by individual forecasters; need to identify systematic biases, random errors, special causes
- Glad to see verification information by station/want to include more stations

Comments About Verification Websites

- Need to be able to zoom in more
- Keep up the good work
- Can't look at the websites/don't have access to username and password
- NDFD verification not scientifically sound in complex terrain; methodology may contaminate forecasts and obs

Comments About Verification Websites

- MOS verification should include MET/MAV/MEX and more sites
- Please justify use of RUC to verify 5km gridded forecasts
- Verification needs to be more of a priority for all of NWS; a top-notch program needs to be available in the WFOs